

BS  
fluid exiting the capillary to enter the interior space 612 of the liquid-to-liquid oxygenator through a second inlet 670. Advantageously, the capillary assembly 650 includes between its first and second ends a luer fitting 652 for securing the capillary in place upon being positioned within a lumen 654 passing through at least a portion of the injector housing 610 to the interior space 612. The capillary assembly advantageously may further include a support assembly (e.g., a rigid tube within which at least a portion of the capillary is disposed) proximate the second end of the assembly 650 to help maintain the capillary fluid outlet port in place within the interior space 612, and/or a strain relief assembly (e.g., a flexible tube within which at least a portion of the capillary is disposed) to help prevent excessive bending or kinking of the capillary.

#### IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicants propose to amend Figures 7A and 7D as indicated in red ink on the attached sheet for the Examiner's approval.

#### IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 and 51, without prejudice.

Please replace the text of claims 41, 68, and 69 with the following text:

Sub C1  
B6  
41. (Amended) A method for forming a gas-enriched fluid comprising the acts of:  
providing a mixing chamber having a first inlet, a second inlet, and an outlet;  
delivering a first fluid to the mixing chamber via the first inlet, wherein the first fluid enters the mixing chamber and flows vortically within the mixing chamber; and  
delivering a second fluid having a liquid phase supersaturated with a gas to the mixing chamber via the second inlet to mix with the first fluid and form the gas-enriched fluid.

Sub  
B7C1  
68. (Amended) A blood oxygenation method comprising the act of:  
extracorporeally mixing blood flowing vortically within a mixing chamber and an oxygen-supersaturated fluid to effect direct liquid-to-liquid oxygenation forming oxygen-enriched blood.

69. (Amended) The method, as set forth in claim 68, wherein the mixing chamber is a pressurizable chamber.